

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01

OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 SCSE-00 OMB-01 SY-04

DRC-01 /143 W

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P R 231625Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4406

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 4867

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ATHENS IS QUIETING DOWN

REF: ATHENS 4791

1. SUMMARY. GREEK CAPITAL ENTERED ITS OWN PARTIAL
CEASEFIRE ON RUMORS AND MOUNTING ANXIETIES AFTER WEEKEND
AND MONDAY EMOTIONAL PEAK. TUESDAY, JULY 23 OPENED
CLEAR AND CALM WITH DOWNSWING OF PUBLIC WAR FERVOR.
GREEK PRESS EXHIBITING RESTRAINT IMPOSED BY GOG IN
COVERAGE OF CYPRUS. END SUMMARY

2. MUCH OF ATHENS WENT INTO PRAGRMATIC, VOLUNTARY CURFEW
EVENING JULY 22. GREEK CITIZENRY, NOW PRACTICED IN STAYING
HOME DURING TIMES OF TENSION DID NOT REQUIRE GOVERNMENT
ORDERS TO KEEP THEM IN THEIR HOMES AND LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS.
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THE GREAT PUBLIC SQUARES AND GARDENS OF ATHENS WERE

DESERTED BY THE USUAL STROLLERS, CAFE GOSSIPERS AND TOURISTS.
ALMOST ALL PLACES OF AMUSEMENT WERE VOLUNTARILY SHUTDOWN.
THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL BLACKOUT IN ATHENS JULY 22, ALTHOUGH THERE
WERE REPORTS OF POLICEMEN TELLING HOUSEHOLDERS TO DRAW
BLINDS OR REDUCE WATTAGE.

3. NOON JULY 23 GAVE EVIDENCE OF NORMAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY
ALTHOUGH REDUCTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CAUSED BY MOBILIZATION
OF GREEK MALES WIDELY EVIDENCED AND WITH SOME EERIE EFFECTS
AS EXEMPLIFIED BY SHUTDOWN TOLL BOOTHS ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY.
CONTINUED CLOSURE OF ATHENS AIRPORT TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC HAS
AGITATED TOURISTS, AND ALL EUROPEAN EMBASSIES REPORT
THEMSELVES UNDER SIEGE OF FRUSTRATED AND IRATE CITIZENS
WHO WANT TO DEPART. SHOPS SELLING FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER
ESSENTIALS REPORTED CROWDED BY PRESENCE OF POLICE
FORESTALLS ANY PANIC-BUYING

4. ATHENS DAILIES OF JULY 22-23 PLAY UP TURKISH VIOLATIONS
OF CEASEFIRE. ALLEGED TURKISH ATROCITIES NOTED BRIEFLY.
PICTORIAL EMPHASIS IS ON GREEK RESERVISTS AT TRANSPORTATION
DEPOTS ENROUTE TO MOBILIZATION CAMPS, AND SISCO PARTY
MEETING GREEK COUNTERPARTS. ONLY WAR PHOTOS ARE OF UNIDENTIFIED
DESTROYED HOSPITAL IN CYPRUS, AND POIGNANT PICTURE OF DEAD
HOSPITAL PATIENT BEING REMOVED FROM RUINS BY TWO MEDICAL
PERSONNEL. ATHENS PRESS IS NOT RPT NOT USING BANNER TYPE
OR PROVOCATIVE LAYOUT IN WAR COVERAGE. FOR FIRST TIME
SINCE APRIL 21, 1967, PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS PLAYING UP
STATEMENTS FORMER POLITICIANS ON COURSE OF EVENTS.

5. EDITORIALS OF JULY 22-23 ARE PREDICTABLY PATRIOTIC
BUT NOT BELLICOSE. TURKISH ACTIONS IN CYPRUS ARE DESCRIBED
AS "AUDACIOUS" AND "AGGRESSIVE", GREEK CYPRIOT RESISTANCE AS
"HEROIC" AND "NOBLE", AND MAINLAND GREEK POSITION RATHER
VAGUELY OBSERVED AS ALERT TO PROTECTION NATIONAL AND
HELLENIC INTERESTS.
ELEFTHEROS COSMOS JULY 23 CARRIED INTERESTING EDITORIAL
LISTING VARIOUS RUMORS CIRCULATING ATHENS LAST THIRTY-
SIX HOURS. UNDER MAINLEAD OF "TORRENT OF BEASTLY RUMORS,"
EDITOR CONSTANTOPOULOS DENOUNCED RUMOR-MONGERING FROM FOREIGN
STATIONS AND IRRESPONSIBLE DOMESTIC ELEMENTS BUT BACKHANDEDLY
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SERVED JOURNALISTIC PURPOSE OF INFORMING READERS OF RUMORS
THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING HERE.
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